

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 05031 120645Z

17

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: PRESS PLAY ON NEX SEARCH AT SUBIC

REF: (A) MANILA 5003, (B) MANILA 5008

1. SUNDAY AND MONDAY EDITIONS OF MAJOR MANILA NEWSPAPERS CARRIED PROMINENT STORIES AND EDITORIALS ON NEX SEARCH AT SUBIC. THE DFA NOTE OF APRIL 8 (REF. A) WAS HIGHLIGHTED IN MOST ARTICLES WITH THE STATEMENT ISSUED APRIL 10 BY SUBIC NAVAL AUTHORITIES (REF B) CARRIED IN WHOLE OR IN PART. THE GENERAL CONCLUSION OF MOST STORIES WAS THAT U.S. AUTHORITIES WOULD BE EXPECTED TO COOPERATE WITH PHILIPPINE AUTHORITIES IN PROSECUTING THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INDIGNITIES. APRIL 12 TIMES JOURNAL REPORTS THAT RUBEN D OCAMPO, PRESIDENT OF FEDERATION OF FILIPINO CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION, HAS REFUTED SUBIC NB APOLOGIES TO SALES-GIRLS AND IS DEMANDING IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL AND EXPULSION OF NEX SUPERVISOR AND SECURITY PERSONNEL. EDITORIAL IN SAME EDITION WAS MORE REASONED AND TEMPERATE, CONCLUDING THAT "BASE AUTHORITIES CANNOT DO OTHERWISE NOW BUT

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PAGE 02 MANILA 05031 120645Z

CHANGE PRESENT SYSTEM" TO "NEW PROCEDURE--COMPATIBLE

WITH SECURITY REQUIREMENTS" AND ALSO TO A "CIVILIZED
AND HUMAN APPROACH" TO THE PROBLEM.

2. INITIAL HEARINGS ON THE CRIMINAL CHARGES BROUGHT AGAINST
SUBIC SECURITY PERSONNEL BY SEVERAL OF THE GIRLS' SEARCHED
ARE SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 14 IN THE OFFICE OF THE FISCAL OF OLONGAPO
CITY.

3. SUNDAY EDITION OF BULLETIN TODAY QUOTES THE PRESIDENT
OF THE EMPLOYEES UNION AS THREATENING "DRASTIC STEPS"
AGAINST THE BASES IF DISCIPLINARY ACTION IS TAKEN AGAINST
ANY OF THE GIRLS WHO HAVE PROTESTED THE SEARCH. THE
ARTICLE QUOTES "RELIABLE SOURCES" IN THE UNION WHO SAID
BASE EMPLOYEES MAY GO ON A "SIT DOWN STRIKE" IF ANY FORM
OF PUNITIVE ACTION IS TAKEN BY BASE AUTHORITIES AGAINST
THE GIRLS.

4. DAILY EXPRESS COLUMNIST VALENCIA CARRIED FOLLOWING
PIECE IN MONDAY EDITION: QUOTE SUBIC BAY NAVY AUTHORITIES
WILL APOLOGIZE TO THE 25 FILIPINAS WHOM THEY SUBJECTED
TO INDIGNITIES IN A CELEBRATED BODY SEARCH INCIDENT.
NOT BEFORE THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT PROTESTED THIS
INSLUT. BUT I DON'T BLAME THE US NAVAL AUTHORITIES. LIKE
THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION FORCES WHO MADE THE MISTAKE OF
SLAPPING FILIPINOS, THINKING THAT WAS PROPER, THE US
NAVY HAD ALWAYS BELIEVED THEY ARE HERE TO DO US A GREAT
FAVOR.

THERE IS A GREAT COMMUNICATIONS GAP BETWEEN AMERICANS AND
FILIPINOS ON THE RATIONALE FOR THE EXISTENCE OF THOSE
BASES. THE AMERICAN PRESS HAS ALWAYS UNDERLINED THE FACT
THAT THE FILIPINOS ARE EXTREMELY LUCKY THEY ARE BEING
PROTECTED. FILIPINOS HAVE FANNED THIS BELIEF, THANKS TO
OUR COLONIAL-MINDED LEADERS WHO TALK AND ACT AS IF THIS
WERE TRUE. THE COMMON MAN, HOWEVER, HAS NEVER UNDERSTOOD
THE SITUATION. ALL THEY SEE IS HOW THE AMERICANS BEHAVE
IN AND OUT OF THOSE BASES. THEY ARE CERTAIN THE AMERICAN
TROOPS, LIKE THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION FORCES, ARE HERE AS
MASTERS. UNQUOTE.

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PAGE 03 MANILA 05031 120645Z

5. COMMENT: WE CAN ANTICIPATE THAT LOCAL PRESS WILL
CONTINUE TO URGE THAT AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR SEARCHES
AT SUBIC BE PUNISHED. AS CRIMINAL CASES FILED BY A NUMBER
OF THE SEARCHED EMPLOYEES WORK THROUGH JUDICIAL SYSTEM,
THERE WILL BE AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES, IF GOP WISHES TO USE THEM,
FOR PRESS TO DRUM ON POPULAR THEME THAT GOP MUST TAKE MORE CONTROL
OVER BASES TO INSURE THAT THE DIGNITY AND HONOR OF THE PHILIPPINE
NATION ARE NOT IMPUGNED. KEYNOTE TO CURRENT CAMPAIGN

REFLECTED IN FIRST PARAGRAPHS OF APRIL 12 DAILY EXPRESS
EDIT: QUOTE SOMEHOW ALONG THE WAY WE HAVE LOST OUR SELF-
RESPECT AND IT COMES AS NO SURPRISE WHEN BROTHER ASIANS
TWIT US FOR BEING MORE PRO-UNITED STATES THAN AMERICANS
THEMSELVES. IT IS THUS A WELCOME SIGN TO HEAR ABOUT
INSISTENCE ON OUR OWN RIGHTS; PERHAPS WE ARE LEARNING,
AFTER ALL, PERHAPS THE DAY IS NOT FAR OFF WHEN WE CAN
SAY WITH JUSTIFIABLE PRIDE, I AM A FILIPINO, THE MASTER
OF MY OWN FATE. END QUOTE.
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